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Supply of magic lanterns for agricultural propaganda work.

*1839 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) how many magic lanterns have been supplied to the Agricultural demonstrators for propaganda work; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one magic lantern for use in Malabar and South Kanara and that even this is not in working order?

A.—(a) One for each circle.

(b) The old lantern used in this circle is not quite satisfactory. Propaganda work, however, has not suffered much on this account as use has been made of another lantern belonging to the Entomological section working in the circle for all important lectures. The replacement of the old lantern will be considered in due course.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether one magic lantern for one circle will do?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"We are only just trying the experiment."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know whether for agricultural propaganda, which is so necessary in our country, one magic lantern is enough for all the districts in the circle?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"That will do for the present."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether portable cinemas cannot be substituted for the old-fashioned magic lanterns?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"It is being considered."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know for how long it has been under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"For some time past, Sir."

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda:—"May I know whether one magic lantern for four districts is sufficient?"

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister has considered the desirability of interspersing agricultural films with other interesting films and whether he has given instructions in that direction?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"The matter is engaging the attention of the Government."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know what is spent for slides?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"Money, Sir. (Laughter.)"

Dr. B. S. Mallayya:—"What is the amount spent on slides for these magic lanterns? We know it is money, but we want to know how much is spent?"

The Chairman:—"Will Mr. Kaleswara Rao please repeat his question?"

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Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know how much is spent in purchasing the slides for the magic lanterns, Sir ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" It depends upon the size."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" Average size, Sir ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know how many different types of slides they are having, Sir ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Several types."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" What is the cost of the type of slides used in these lanterns ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Industries

Opening of a spinning factory in the Presidency.

* 1840 *Q.*—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government intend to start a spinning factory anywhere in the Presidency ;

(*b*) whether the Government Industrial department has made any investigations with regard to the suitability of sites for the said purpose at Bezwada, Tuticorin and other places ;

(*c*) at what stage the proposal now is ; and

(*d*) whether the said investigations have been carried on in order that the Government itself may start a spinning factory or to give financial assistance to any private firm or on behalf of any private firm that proposes to start a spinning factory and, if so, which is the private firm ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no such intention at present.

(*b*) The Department of Industries in 1921 instituted inquiries as to the scope for the setting up of additional cotton mills in this Presidency and as to the most suitable centres of such mills, but with no practical result. Recently a private firm has evinced interest in the matter of establishing additional mills at suitable centres and has approached the department for certain information and data in this regard.

(*c*) The question is still under the consideration of the firm, whose enquiries, it is understood, are still proceeding.

(*d*) As already stated in answer to clause (*a*), the Government do not intend to start a spinning mill. No application for financial assistance in regard to the starting of a mill has been received. The enquiries recently made by the department have been with a view to supplying the particulars required by the firm referred to above. Government do not consider it desirable to disclose the name of the firm who have specially requested that their investigation should, at this stage, be regarded as confidential.